

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 33 wherein said coating
2 aids in retaining said stent in a body lumen until degradation of said coating.

16-27. (Cancelled)

1 28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 33 wherein said stent
2 includes a portion constructed from super elastic material.

29-32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for maintaining a body lumen opening
2 comprising a stent with a distal end and a proximal end, said stent having a tubular shaped body
3 wall with a linear central axis when said stent is in a relaxed state, wherein (a) said body wall has
4 outer and inner diameters which flare outward at the distal end and the proximal end of said
5 stent, and wherein said diameters increase to form a bulbous middle section of said stent for the
6 purpose of providing resistance with a lumen wall upon installation of said stent in said lumen,
7 (b) said stent is constructed of a material that is collapsible to facilitate insertion in said lumen
8 expandable after placement in said lumen, and (c) the exterior surface of said stent includes a
9 biodegradable or bioabsorbable coating, whereby biodegradation or absorption of said coating
10 reduces the diameter size of said stent by an amount sufficient to facilitate removal of said stent.

34. (Cancelled)